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SUCCESS STORY

A Canal Rehabilitation brings New Hopes to the Southern Afghan

Spaid Rawan irrigation canal provides Panjwayi farmers licit crops



Saped Rawan Irrigation Canal – Paniwavi

“The rehabilitation of Saped Rawan irrigation canal brings new hopes for over 300 households in Panjwayi.”

- Hasti Mohammad

Decades of war destroyed many agriculture systems, water irrigation canals, bridges and orchards in Afghanistan southern Kandahar province. The lack of irrigation canal was one of the root causes of poppy cultivation in Kandahar. Considering this, USAID's Kandahar Food Zone (KFZ) built irrigation canals in target districts and poppy growing areas to provide alternative development for the farmers.

One such is the Spaid Rawan irrigation canal which water flows from Arghandab River to irrigate many farmlands in Panjwayi district of the province.

KFZ program rehabilitated the Spaid Rawan irrigation canal which gives the farmers in Panjwayi new hope to rebuild their orchards and cultivate licit crops.

The KFZ intervention program rehabilitated 12 irrigation canals, totaling 168.3 kilometers, in Panjwayi and Zhari districts of Kandahar. These canals provide water to more than 19,000 hectares of farmland. Saped Rawan is one of those irrigation canals which was completed on March 2015 with the length of 13.9 kilometers and irrigates 1,320 hectares of agricultural lands.

“The rehabilitation of irrigation canal brings new hopes for over 300 households in Panjwayi,” said Hasti Mohammad, a resident of Panjwayi district. “It was not functioning well for decades due to war and lack of proper water management system, but now it provides sufficient water for the farmers”, he added.

In addition to rehabilitation of irrigation canals, KFZ improved irrigation management system in target districts to reduce water wastage. “Year ago, nearly half of the farmlands were not cultivated while almost all lands are cultivated this year as a result of

improving proper water management and rehabilitation of these canals”, said Hasti Mohammad.

The increase of water is likely to increase this season’s agricultural products in Kandahar. Farmers are getting better off and turning to licit crops as a result of USAID’s KFZ intervention program.